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(1) El Salvador
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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JUL 1982
PA or FOI EXCEPTIONS

GTON STAR Sunday, November 30, 1980

Church Unit Says Salvador Backs Right-Wing Terror

Star Wire Services

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — The Catholic Archdiocese of El Salvador accused the government yesterday of supporting the right-wing terrorists who kidnapped and killed six left-wing leaders meeting in a Jesuit school.

At the same time the Democratic Revolutionary Front, a coalition of 18 left-wing groups and terrorist organizations, also announced the selection of a new set of leaders to take the place of those killed Thursday. The names of the new leaders were not immediately announced.

Scattered violence erupted yesterday in the capital, killing 11 people, as supporters mourned the slain leaders.

Hundreds milled in the square outside the Metropolitan Cathedral, where the bodies of the slain leaders were reported lying under armed guard beforea bomb exploded outside the church Friday night, injuring nine.

The bodies were secretly removed to a funeral home in a poor neighborhood following the blast and would be returned to the cathedral at a later time, church sources said.

The crowds snarled traffic in downtown San Salvador, and nervous bus line owners sharply reduced service in the area. People were made more nervous by a 30-minute electric power cut in large sections of the city, which authorities did not immediately explain.

The Archdiocese of San Salvador, which regularly criticizes the U.S.-backed junta for alleged human rights violations, charged in a statement that government security forces supported the terrorists responsible for the mass kidnapping and slaying.

"The same elements (responsible for the kidnappings and killings), coordinated or supported by the public security bodies, are assassinating people with impunity," the statement said.

It said 100 men dressed in civilian clothes and carrying German G-3 submachine guns stormed a Jesuit-run school where the leftist leaders were meeting and kidnapped 20 officials. Six were later found dead.

The Maximiliano Hernandez Brigade, an ultra-rightist "death squad" named after a Salvadoran president who killed 30,000 persons to suppress a 1932 uprising, took responsibility for the raid.

The brigade also took responsibility for the bombing Friday night at the cathedral. Five people were seriously injured when the blast ripped through the front of the cathederal, destroying the caskets.

The bomb, composed of about 50 sticks of dynamite planted in a parked car, set fire to the cathedral and at least a dozen surrounding businesses. Five firefighting units were called to the scene to control the blaze.

STAR 11/30/80